

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-07 IO-13 BIB-01 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05  
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 /079 W  
-----132338Z 057476 /62

R 131546Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4526

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION USBERLIN

USMISSION USNATO

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, GE, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET DEFENSE MINISTER VISITS EAST BERLIN

1. SOVIET DEFENSE MINISTER DMITRIY USTINOV ARRIVED  
IN EAST BERLIN APRIL 11 FOR A SEVERAL DAY VISIT AT  
THE HEAD OF A SOVIET MILITARY DELEGATION. IN THE  
COURSE OF A MEETING WITH SED GENERAL SECRETARY HONECKER  
THE SAME DAY, USTINOV RECEIVED THE GDR'S HIGHEST  
MILITARY AWARD AND STRESSED IN HIS REMARKS THE MODERN  
WEAPONRY AND MILITARY TECHNOLOGY AT THE DISPOSAL OF  
THE SOVIET MILITARY. HE WENT ON TO EMPHASIZE THE  
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SIGNIFICANCE OF REGULAR VISITS AND EXCHANGES WITH THE  
GDR NATIONAL PEOPLE'S ARMY (NVA). HONECKER POINTED  
TO THE GDR'S ROLE IN "STABILIZING" DETENTE, WHILE  
PRAISING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OCTOBER  
REVOLUTION AND THE 1975 SOVIET/GDR TREATY.

2. ON APRIL 11 USTINOV ALSO MET WITH GDR DEFENSE

MINISTER HENIZ HOFFMANN, WHO HOSTED A DINNER FOR THE SOVIET DELEGATION. IN HIS TOAST, HOFFMANN STATED THAT THE NVA STOOD SHOULDER TO SHOULDER WITH ITS SOVIET COLLEAGUES OPPOSITE THE LARGEST AND MOST AGGRESSIVE NATO UNITS. HOFFMANN NOTED THAT THESE NATO TROOPS WERE CONTINUALLY BEING ARMED WITH THE NEWEST TYPES OF WEAPONS AND WERE STEADILY ENLARGED THROUGH NEW DEPLOYMENTS. HE SAID THE GDR UNDERSTOOD THE THREAT AND WOULD MAKE ITS CONTRIBUTION TO PROTECTING SOCIALISM. IN PRAISING THE OCTOBER REVOLUTION, HOFFMANN STATED THAT THE PEOPLES OF AFRICA WERE NOW TAKING THE SAME PATH AFTER THE MODEL AND WITH THE HELP OF "LENIN'S HEIRS".

3. ACCORDING TO A NEUES DEUTSCHLAND REPORT, USTINOV SPENT APRIL 12 VISITING SOVIET TROOPS IN THE GDR ACCOMPANIED BY THE COMMANDER OF THE SOVIET TROOPS IN THE GDR, IVANOVSKI.

4. COMMENT: USTINOV'S VISIT IS HIS FIRST TO THE GDR SINCE BECOMING SOVIET DEFENSE MINISTER. BOTH SIDES APPEAR TO BE CHARACTERIZING THE EVENT AS NORMAL IN THE COURSE OF CONTINUAL MILITARY CONSULTATION BETWEEN THE SOVIET UNION AND THE GDR. ALTHOUGH ND REPORTS PROVIDE ONLY GENERAL DESCRIPTIONS OF THE TALKS THUS FAR, LIKELY TOPICS FOR CONSULTATION COULD INCLUDE: 1) CONTINUED MODERNIZATION OF THE NVA WITH NEWER SOVIET WEAPONRY; 2) GDR CONTRIBUTION TO THE COST OF MAINTAINING 400,000 SOVIET TROOPS ON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GDR SOIL AND 3) POSSIBLE COORDINATION ON MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO THE THIRD WORLD INCLUDING AFRICAN COUNTRIES. POLANSKY

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Review Markings:**  
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